

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for connecting first and second conduits to carry a fluid under pressure comprises a first face attached around an open end of the first conduit and a pocket face attached around an open end of the second conduit and defining a pocket. The first face is fastened to the pocket face such that the first face is substantially perpendicular to walls of the pocket and adjacent to an open end of the pocket. A gasket member is slidably engaged in the pocket and defines a passageway through a central portion thereof. The gasket member has a gasket face adjacent and substantially parallel to the first face and an opposite pressure face inside the pocket. A bias element exerts a bias force on the gasket member toward the first face and a pocket seal seals an outer periphery of the gasket member to the walls of the pocket. A main gasket is located between the gasket face of the gasket member and the first face, and the pressure face of the gasket member is exposed to fluid carried by the conduits and has an area that is greater than an area of the gasket face between the main gasket and the passageway through the gasket member. The higher the pressure inside the conduits the greater the force that is exerted on the main gasket, sealing the connection.